

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 were pending in the present application. By this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-48 are canceled and claims 49-75 are added. Allowance of claims 49-75 is respectfully requested.

Claims 49-75 added herein correspond to allowed claims 1, 2, 4-10, 17, 18, 20-26, 33, 34 and 36-42 in parent U.S. Application No. 09/361,122, filed July 27, 1999, the priority benefit of which has been claimed in the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 119/365. U.S. Application No. 09/361,122 is the priority document upon which PCT Application No. PCT/US00/20401 is based. The present application is a U.S. national phase filing under 35 U.S.C. § 371 based on PCT App. No. PCT/US00/20401. Claims 1-48 of the present application correspond to claims 1-48 in the original parent Application No. 09/361,122. Thus, rather than maintain two U.S. applications directed to the same subject matter, Applicant has consolidated the two pending U.S. applications by adding the allowed claims from U.S. App. No. 09/361,122 to the present application.

As noted above, claims 49-75 presented herein have been examined and allowed in parent Application No. 09/361,122, and their allowance in the present application is respectfully requested. In the earlier prosecution of App. No. 09/361,122, the original claims 1-48 were subject to a restriction requirement (mailed September 28, 2002), of which claims 1-10, 17-26 and 33-42 were elected with traverse. Subsequently, claims 1, 2, 4-10, 17, 18, 20-26, 33, 34 and 36-42 of App. No. 09/361,122 were allowed, as indicated in a Notice of Allowance mailed June 30, 2003. Claims 49-75 added herein correspond to the allowed claims of App. No. 09/361,122 in their allowed form.

In addition, the specification has been amended to clarify references to figures contained in the drawings in place of additional references to tables that appear in the figures, and to remove a reference to non-existent Figure 14E.

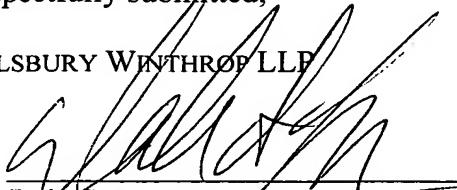
Furthermore, Applicant submits herewith a Petition Under Rule 84(a)(2) to accept color drawings in this application, approval of which is earnestly solicited. Applicant hereby brings to the Examiner's attention that Figures 16F, 16G, 16H, 16J and 16M in the color drawings submitted herewith in the Petition have been amended to remove potentially confusing references to tables in the figure titles. No new matter is added by these changes.

Favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be helpful, he or she is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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